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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APR 08 2002

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT FILED PRIOR TO  
A FIRST ACTION ON THE MERITS**

Docket No. 9423.00

Application of

Charles K. Wike, Jr. et al.

Serial No. 10/001,389

Group Art Unit: 2876

Filed: October 23, 2001

Examiner: Unknown

For: **AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC ARTICLE SURVEILLANCE FOR SELF-  
CHECKOUT**

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

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APR 16 2002  
TC 2400 MAIL ROOM

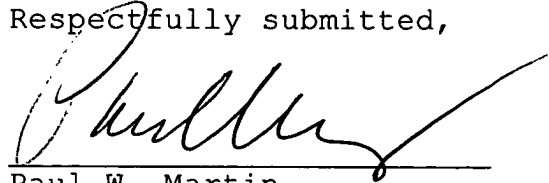
Sir:

In compliance with 37 CFR §1.97, the Examiner is hereby respectfully advised that the art listed on the attached PTO-1449 form is known by or has come to the attention of the Applicants and is being submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner. A copy of each listed reference is included herewith.

It is Applicants' opinion that the claims presently on file patentably distinguish the present invention from the references. The references are being cited only in the interest of candor without any admission that they constitute

statutory prior art or they contain matter which anticipates the invention or which would render the same obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul W. Martin', written over a horizontal line.

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APR 08 2002

Dayton, Ohio